

Washington, D. C.

Inasmuch as the readers of the EVANGELIST are aware that a church property has been secured here for the mission, it might be well to state briefly just what has been our fortune to secure. The property is on the corner of E and 12th streets, S. E., having a frontage of 53 feet on E street, and extending back 75 feet along 12th street. The location is most desirable, there being a parkage in front caused by the peculiar way the avenues run in this city. Practically speaking the church faces Pennsylvania avenue. Property in this neighborhood is selling from \$100 to \$150 per square foot, and as this particular lot contains 3975 square feet, it is safe to estimate the value of the ground alone at \$4,500. The building could not be replaced for less than \$2,500. The furniture and fixtures are worth, roughly estimated, at about \$450. This brings the present value of property to a total of \$7,450. Under the present building laws it is questionable whether we could replace the improvements for much under \$7,000 or \$8,000. We were indeed fortunate in being able to secure this property. For an additional cost of from \$100 to \$200 the property can be very conveniently changed from a "Methodist" to a "Brethren" church. In other words, it will be necessary for us to make preparation for holding our own communion services and the putting in of a baptistry. We have been told by the trustees of the Methodist church that they have crowded 700 people in the building. At present there are 248 chairs, and we think 400 could be taken care of very comfortably.

The Mission, under Brother Lyons' charge, is in a very healthy state, and if the good work will continue we hope to have in a few years one of the strongest churches in the brotherhood. The opportunities seem to be excellent, for there is no other church very near and the Brethren will have quite a nice field to work in.

The great question which confronts us now is the matter of securing sufficient funds to meet the obligations April 1. It can easily be done if all will act in unison and respond to the call for assistance. It is of vital importance that the entire brotherhood act at once.

It would be well for the Brethren to watch the EVANGELIST carefully the next couple of months and keep in touch with the work in this city.

Hoping the Mission here will be successful in their efforts to secure a church home and that the work may prosper everywhere, I am yours fraternally,

J. E. PARSONS.

244 8th st., N. E.

Chicago Mission

Recently there came to hand a tract, bearing the title the "Head Stone Quarterly" published at Martinsville, Ind., and containing what purported to be a review of my tract "Saved by Grace" and saying some very uncomplimentary things about the doctrines taught by our Lord and preached by

the Brethren church. The same author, if such he can be said to be, seemed to take a delight, which can not be said to be Christian, in misconstruing the writings of Brother Gillin, Brother Rensch and myself, in a most reckless and unchristian manner. The typography of the tract will itself be sufficient comment on the publisher, and the unutterable disregard for all rules of grammar and logic is a sufficient answer to the author. Indeed I would not mention it here, were it not that a brother wrote me asking who those people are who assume so much and practice so little. I think they are a class who call themselves "The come-outers." If I am right, it is apparant that they "come out" in a very reckless manner. They seem to assail all other churches because of the divisions among them and claim to be united *very much themselves*; but in this same tract, the publisher says the author (?) began to write the tract in 1897, but it was not finished until 1900, and before it was finished there was a disagreement between the publisher and the author of the tract, which the publisher thinks proper to mention in his apology for the publication, saying, "The only trouble with John O. Smith has been our difference on doctrine." "I am unutterably sorry that John O. Smith who did run well for a season, and preached to others, should himself be a cast-away." Well I am sorry for all of you, and pray the Lord may lead you all to a full acceptance of his grace, and all the doctrines, obedience unto which makes "pure the soul."

I am glad for the success of Brother Lyon in Washington, and pray that our project for a house of worship in the Capital City may be carried to a successful issue. The "all pull together" essential to success in every thing else, will be successful in this. Let us therefore unite to accomplish, and that quick, the work begun.

Our work here in this city is going nicely. Two more told me that they will unite with us, so there are now four more to baptize, which will be attended to soon. The weather here is very cold, and there is much sickness. I believe every family belonging to our work here has had sickness, and soon all will be at work again. Pray for us and for the sick. The poor have suffered these two weeks of cold weather.

FRAUDS WE MEET WITH

Last September one day I was in a store purchasing some missionary barrels, and when thru, crossed the street on an errand. While I was out, a man and woman came into the store seeking a preacher to marry them. The head clerk being well acquainted with me, sent one of the clerks out after me. When I returned, the man showed me his license, which I took and excused myself a moment till I could walk a block to the county clerk's office, and ask as to the genuineness of the license. The clerk said the license was good; had just been issued. So I told the couple if they wished me to marry them they should come to my residence in

the afternoon. At the appointed time they came and were duly married. A little while afterwards he was arrested for bigamy and placed in jail. Just recently he was tried, and it developed that he had eight wives and had been married under four or five different names, none of which were his correct name, which he refused to divulge. He was sent to the penitentiary and fined a thousand dollars. He had presented a forged affidavit to the clerk to obtain the license, and falsified to me on all the questions I had asked him. The lady I think was an estimable character, having been in charge of the ladies' dormitory at Knox College, and was acquainted personally with some of the young people of my Milledgeville congregation when they were in school there. Too bad, but the plausible frauds can deceive the most careful.

VERILY, VERILY

The Master's "verily," of the gospel, sounds heaven's decree concerning human salvation. "Except a man be born again (from above,) he can not see; i. e., comprehend the kingdom of heaven." "Except a man be born of (out of) water he can not enter into the kingdom of heaven". John 3:35. A new starting point. A new Spirit. A new LIFE. A new creature. Is the gospel transition for the sons of earth, to the sonship of God. The Spirit from above only can raise us out of earthly sins and fit us for heavenly mansions. The doctrine of the Holy Spirit, I find to be the essential gospel fact, to preach to lead men into a new life and obedience to the laws of grace, whereby we are saved, sanctified, sealed, for the inheritance that awaiteth the children of God. When I look over the field, I would despair did I think for a moment that the world's salvation depends on our powers, i. e., intellect, reason, education alone or our own righteousness. But the Lord has said he would write his laws in the "heart," and a new spirit would he give us. When I look upon some who come under my ministry I think how impossible to save them with the spirit that is in them. Then the promise of the Holy Spirit and the works of the Spirit in the heart, gives us a solution of the problem. That all men must die is a necessity, that they who will, may receive the life from above and become "new creatures in Christ Jesus." I praise God for the "*letter that kills, as well as the Spirit that gives life*" I pray daily that I may be empowered to preach the Word with a power that will kill the old man, that the believer, after repentance and baptism, may become a new man by the power of the Holy Spirit.

WORLDLY UNIONS

Just now in our city we are having much trouble between union of capitalists and unions of labor. This is rapidly becoming a graver question than many of our good people think. To refuse to join the labor unions means to be boycotted and thrown out of employment. To join the union means to go out on strikes and prevent others from taking